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DEC 21 1998

Director's Office
Group 3700

In re Application of :
William Elkins : DECISION ON
Serial No. 09/127,256 : PETITION TO
Filed: July 31, 1998 : MAKE SPECIAL
For: Compliant Heat Exchange Panel :

BACKGROUND

No Office action has been mailed in this application.

DISCUSSION

MPEP Section 708.02, paragraph IV, indicates that an application may be made special, i.e., given accelerated examination, upon a petition by applicant accompanied by evidence showing that the applicant is 65 years of age or older. The evidence which must accompany the statement that applicant is 65 years of age or older typically includes a birth certificate or a verified statement, i.e., a statement made under oath, or in the form of a declaration under 28 U.S.C. 1746.

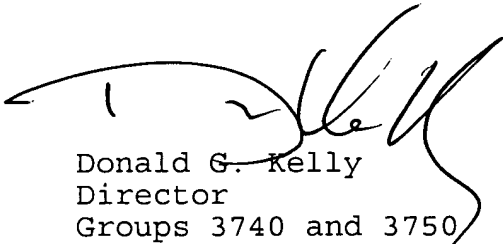
However, 37 CFR 1.102(a) was amended, effective December 1, 1997, to remove the explicit verification requirement, because all applicants who file papers in the Office certify that all statements made therein are true, pursuant to 37 CFR 10.18.

Thus, a statement signed by petitioner which states that petitioner is over 65 years of age will be accepted as true, and to show sufficient cause to grant the petition.

The petition includes a verified statement by petitioner that he is 69 years old.

DECISION

The petition is granted. This application is accorded "special" status, i.e., accelerated examination.



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